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United States Department of Agriculture



HIKING

UPPER PINEY RIVER TRAIL #1885

Length: 7.02 miles (one way)

Difficulty: Easy to More Difficult

Beginning Elevation: 9,397 ft.

Elevation Gain: +1,866 ft.-161 ft. = +1,705 ft.

Trail Use: Moderate to High

Open To: Hiking, Horseback

Ending Elevation: 11,102 ft.

USGS Map(s): Vail West, Vail East

Access from Vail: From I-70, take Exit 176 for Vail. Take the North Frontage Road west to Red Sandstone Road. Turn north here and follow the paved road about 0.7 miles to a fork with a dirt road on the left. There should be a Forest Service sign indicating this is Red Sandstone Road #700 (Reset your odometer here). Continue up this road about 2.7 miles to an intersection with the Lost Lake Road (#786) and continue left. At mile 6.5 you will pass Red and White Mtn Road-FSR 734. At mile 6.7 you will pass the Lost Lake Trail parking lot on the right and then reach an intersection where the Muddy Pass/Moniger Road goes left. **Stay right here.** (Some maps show the Red Sandstone Road changing number from FSR 700 to FSR 701 at this point, and some don't, but regardless, you stay right to get to Piney Lake and the Upper Piney River Trail). At mile 9.1, you will cross the Piney River and see a trailhead for Lower Piney River Trail - FDT 1885 on the left. Stay right and reach a Forest Service parking lot on the right at mile 10.65 before the entrance to Piney River Ranch (**private property**). The trailhead is on the north side (left side of the parking lot as one faces the Piney River Ranch entrance) of the parking lot. If visiting the ranch, you can drive further to their parking lot.

Trail Highlights: From the trailhead it is a gradual climb for about 3 miles to a cascading waterfall which makes a good destination for the average hiker. The trail becomes less distinct after the falls. Continue along the north side of the river. The trail during the first 4 miles transitions from aspen groves to spruce and fir stands. After mile 4, the trail enters a section of alternating meadows and thick forests that offer many good camping opportunities. The trail then crosses the river several times leading to a small lake at mile 5.7. The next 1.3 miles, to Upper Piney Lake, becomes more rigorous because the trail is steep and can be difficult to follow in some places. It is advised that for the last 1.3 miles, it may be advantageous to have a topographic map, as the trail can be difficult to follow.

Attractions: The lower part of the trail is one of the most popular hiking and horseback trails with the waterfalls at mile 3 as a great destination. This trail provides access to Mt. Powell (13,534 ft.) and the entire length of Piney River for fishing. Beyond mile 5.7, fewer people and horses use the trail and the area becomes increasingly remote.

Important Information: Piney River is in the **Eagles Nest Wilderness**. Wilderness is for your use and enjoyment, but you have an obligation to leave it unimpaired for future generations. Please understand your responsibilities when visiting these special places. Leave them as you wish to find them:

- * Camping - camp at least 100 feet from streams, lakes, and trails
- * Dogs - must be leashed out of consideration for both other people and wildlife
- * Fire - campstoves are recommended and fires are prohibited at and above timberline
- * Group size - limit group sizes to 15 people
- * Sanitation - bury human waste 100 feet from water and 6 inches in the soil

PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT!! LEAVE NO TRACE!!

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest strongly suggests purchasing a topographic map and compass prior to your hiking trip.

106°24.000' W

106°23.000' W

TOPOI map printed on 03/08/12 from "UPPER_PINEY_RIVER.TPO" and "Untitled.tpg"

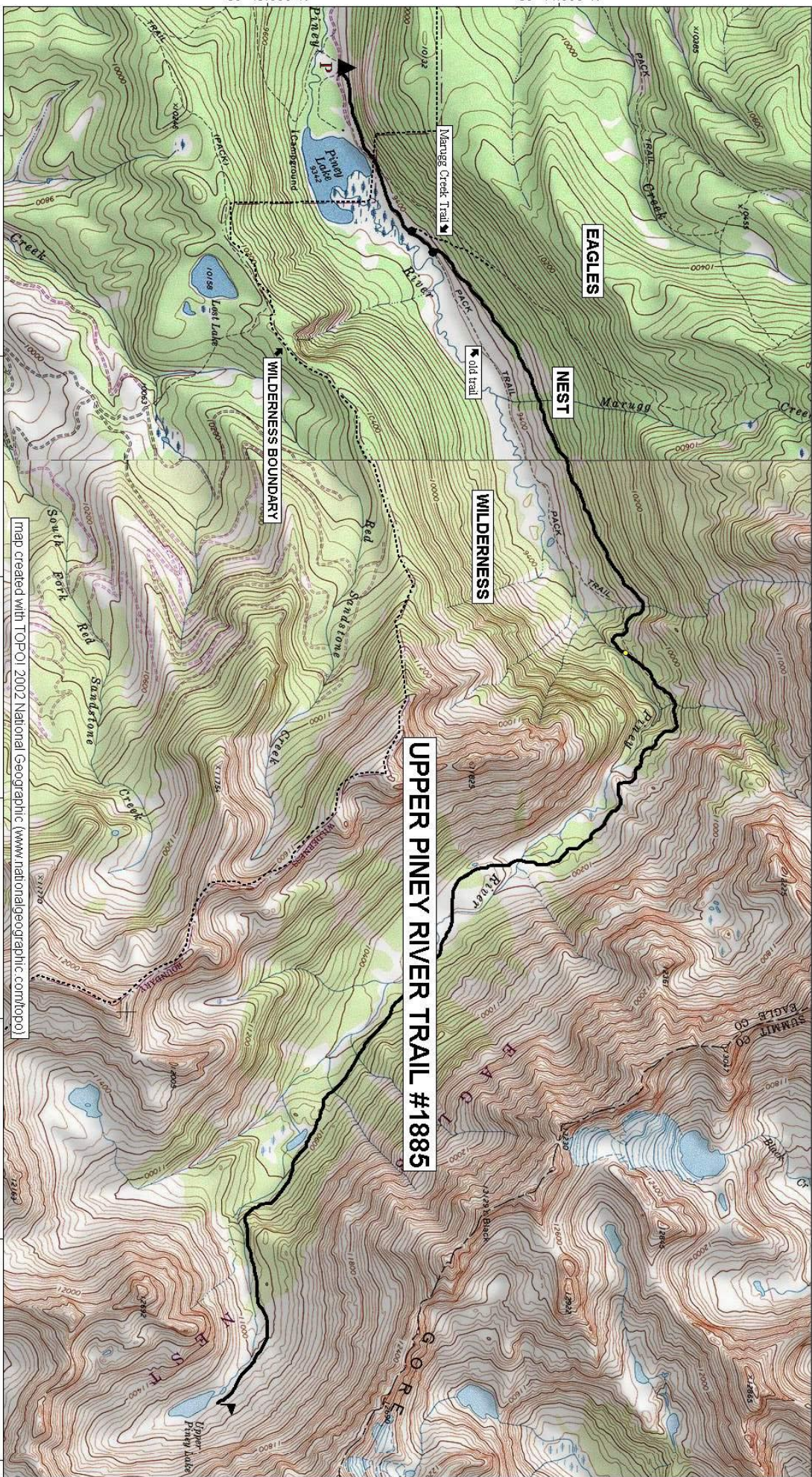
106°22.000' W

106°21.000' W

106°20.000' W

106°19.000' W

WGS84 106°18.000' W



39°43.000' N

39°44.000' N

39°43.000' N

39°44.000' N

TN

10°

11300'

11000'

10500'

10000'

9500'

9000'

8500'

8000'

7500'

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Ga. +2006 -280' = +1726'